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Board of Trade Journal.

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The Offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The registered telegraphic address of the Branch is "Advantage, London."

A statement of the objects and work of the Commercial Intelligence Branch will be found on p. 575.

Attention is directed to the Sample Room, where there are at present on view, among other exhibits, samples of iron ore, received from H.M. Consuls at various places in illustration of their reports included among those embodied in the publication recently issued by the Board of Trade on "Iron Ore Deposits in Foreign Countries" (see "Board of Trade Journal" of 15th June, p. 521); samples of cotton grown in the Argentine Chaco (see pp. 544-5 of this issue); and two sample beer bottles of Chilian manufacture (see p. 536 of this issue).

The following Special Trade Enquiry Offices are also at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.:—

India.	Queensland.
Dominion of Canada.	Cape of Good Hope.

Statements of the objects and work of the Special Trade Enquiry Offices will be found on p. 576.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

The East Indian Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply and delivery of:—

Electric Plant and Materials. Electric plant and materials, as per specification, to be seen at the Company's offices, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

Openings for British Trade.

BRITISH INDIA—*continued.*

Tenders are to be sent to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Electric Plant and Materials," not later than noon, on Wednesday, the 27th September.

The Company reserve the right to divide the order, also to decline any tender without assigning a reason, and do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

For each specification a fee of 1*l.* 1*s.* is charged, which cannot under any circumstances be returned.

Railway Stores.

The Madras Railway Company are prepared to receive, by noon on Monday, 2nd October, tenders for the supply and delivery, free on board, of zinc sheets, tool steel, bolts and nuts, moulders' tools, tube expanders, screw taps, augurs, twist drills, split cotters, saws, carriage locks, window catches and hinges, gauge glass protectors, head lamps, enamelled iron commodes, firebricks, carborundum wheels, plate glass, steam packing, curled horsehair, paint brushes, machine belting, rubber pads, transfers, and non-conducting composition, as per specifications to be seen at the Company's Offices, 1, Broad Street Place, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.

Tenders are to be delivered in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Secretary, endorsed "Tender for Loco. Stores, Part I." (or Part II., as the case may be).

The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender. A charge (which cannot be refunded) will be made for each copy of the specification.

Railway Stores.

The Directors of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company are prepared to receive, up to noon on Tuesday, the 3rd October, tenders for the supply of the following stores, viz.:—

CLASS A.

1. Brass boiler tubes; 2. Gas piping; 3. Metals; 4. Miscellaneous tools and stores; 5. Pig-iron; 6. Red and white lead; 7. Spiral and volute springs: 8. Steel boiler tubes; 9. Steel plates for boilers.

CLASS B.

1. Bunting, canvas, &c.; 2. Copper firebox plates; 3. Firebricks; 4. Paints, &c.; 5. Weldless hydraulic steel tubes.

Tenders must be made on forms, copies of which, with specifications, can be obtained at the offices of the Company, Gloucester House, Bishopsgate Street Without, London, E.C., on payment as follows:—For Class A, 21*s.* each, and for Class B, 10*s.* 6*d.* each (which will not be returned).

The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA.

Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Government Trade Enquiry Office, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained :—

Home Enquiries.—A Glasgow firm would like to do business in Canada in white lead, tar products and chemicals.

A company manufacturing drain pipes, sinks, lavatories and fire-clay goods wish to do business in Canada.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Canadian Government Trade Enquiry Office, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Railway Materials in South Australia.

Tenders will be received at the Supply and Tender Board Office, Adelaide, South Australia, up till 3 p.m. on 25th October, 1905, for the supply of the following materials, delivered in bond, on wharf, Port Adelaide, wharfage to be paid by the contractor :—

30 best steel straight axle forgings (three drawings, 1*s.* each).
60 cast steel engine and tender wheel centres (one drawing, 4*s.*; one drawing, 1*s.* 6*d.*).
60 engine and tender tyres (three drawings, 1*s.* each).
182 best steel straight wagon axles (two drawings, 1*s.* 6*d.* each).
364 cast steel wagon wheel centres (two drawings, 5*s.* each).
364 carriage and wagon tyres (two drawings, 1*s.* each).
24 best mild steel crank pin forgings (one drawing, 2*s.*).

Specifications may be seen, and forms of tender obtained, at the above office, and at the office of the Chief Mechanical Engineer, Islington, South Australia; specifications may also be seen at the office of the Agent-General for South Australia, 28, Bishopsgate Street Without, London, E.C.

Copies of indent, with specifications complete (10*s.* each) and drawings may be obtained at the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office, Islington, South Australia.

Date of delivery, as well as the names of manufacturers of the materials tendered for, must be distinctly stated in each tender.

The materials are subject to the inspection, test, and approval of the Government inspecting engineer, in London, or the Chief Mechanical Engineer, in Adelaide.

The expenses of the inspecting engineer will be paid by the Agent-General, London (except in cases as specified), who will also advance 75 per cent. on the contract on receipt of bills of lading, insurance policy, and the usual shipping documents, accompanied by the certificate of the inspecting engineer; and the

balance of the contract will be paid in Adelaide or London, at the option of the contractor, upon satisfactory delivery of the materials.

Successful tenderers will be required, within seven days of date of notice of acceptance of tender, to enter into an agreement and make a deposit equal to 5 per cent. of the total value of their accepted tender as security for the due fulfilment of the contract.

Tenders should be indorsed "Tender for Railway Materials."

Neither the lowest nor any tender necessarily accepted.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Wire Doors and Window Screens.

The Canadian Commercial Agent at Cape Town (Mr. C. M. Kittson) reports that South Africa, owing to the fact that she has at certain seasons many insect pests, offers a peculiarly suitable market for the exploitation of wire window screens (adjustable variety), and wire screen doors. Neither of these articles, he adds, have, up to the present, received the attention which the possibilities of the market deserve.

Waterworks in Natal.

The "Natal Government Gazette" contains the text of an Act passed by the Natal Legislature authorising the Verulam Local Board to borrow a sum not exceeding 12,000*l.* for the purpose of supplying the township with water from the River Umhloti, and to construct the necessary works for such purpose.

JAMAICA.

Small Cane Mills.

The Canadian Commercial Agent at Kingston (Mr. G. E. Burke) reports that, as a result of the buoyancy of sugar prices, a decided revival of the industry is in evidence in Jamaica, not only among the large landed proprietors, but also with the peasantry. Hundreds of small cane mills are being imported from the United States. These mills are admitted free of Customs duty, and sell for 10*l.* 10*s.* each.

EGYPT.

Uniforms.

The Egyptian Post Office Department invites tenders for the supply of uniforms for the years 1906, 1907, and 1908. Conditions of contract may be obtained at the Secretary's Office, "Direction générale des Postes," Alexandria, or at the "Direction locale des Postes," at Cairo. Tenders, which will be received at the former office up to 16th October, must be accompanied by stamped paper to the value of 3 piastres*, and inserted in double envelopes, the outer addressed "S.E. le Directeur général des Postes," Alexandria, and the inner, "Offre pour la fourniture des uniformes."

* 100 piastres = £E 1 = £1 0*s.* 6¼*d.*

Openings for British Trade.

EGYPT—*continued.*

Ready-made Clothing.

The "Bulletin" of the French Chamber of Commerce at Alexandria calls attention to the increasing importation into Egypt of articles of ready-made clothing, the value having risen from £E.164,271 in 1899 to £E.292,924 in 1904. The larger demand is ascribed to the immigration of persons with cultivated tastes, and to the Government's decision that children attending their schools should be clothed in European fashion. Austria-Hungary has the largest share of the trade and studies the market carefully. A system they have, which recommends itself, is the despatching twice a year of numbered samples, accompanied by a price book, with corresponding numbers, in which space is left for writing in the order.

PORTUGAL.

Electric Lighting Plant.

The "Diario do Governo" of 6th September contains a Decree approving a contract entered into between Senhor Antonio Rosado Caeiro and the Municipality of Regarengos de Monsarás, for the supply of electric lighting in that town for public purposes and to private individuals.

SPAIN.

Hydro-Electric Plant.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 11th September contains notices issued by the Minister of Agriculture, Industry, Commerce and Public Works, authorising (1) the "Ayuntamiento" of Mansilla de Las Mulas (Léon) to appropriate 300 litres of water per second from the river Esla for the production of motive power; (2) Don Ignacio Coll y Portabella to appropriate 300 litres per second from the Espinalvet waterfall (Barcelona) for the production of electric power.

Automobiles for Mail Purposes.

The "Gaceta" of the 13th September contains a notice to the effect that tenders will be received by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, within 60 days of the insertion of the notice in the "Gaceta," for the establishment and working of a mail service by automobiles in Madrid. The number of automobiles to be used is to be stated in the tender.

Port Works.

The "Gaceta" of the 16th September contains a notice calling for tenders for works for repairing the River Wall of the Guadalete, in the port of Santa Maria, Province of Cádiz, the upset price being 123,136 pesetas (about 3,733*l*. Tenders must be received by the

Openings for British Trade.

Director General of Public Works in Madrid, before the 9th October, and a deposit of 6,150 pesetas (about 187*l.*) will be required to qualify any tender.

The "Gacetas" containing these notices may be seen at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Motor Cars.

The "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) reports that trade in automobiles in Hungary, although little developed as yet, has lately made a distinct advance.

Local industry is not yet in a position to compete against foreign importations.

PERSIA.

Export Trade in Carpets.

In his report on the trade of Khorassan for the year 1904–05, H.M. Consul-General at Meshed (Major P. M. Sykes, C.M.G.) gives the following particulars of the carpet industry of that province:—

"The carpet industry, as in most parts of Persia, falls into the sub-headings of (*a*) town woven, and (*b*) nomad woven. In Meshed itself there are 400 frames; in the Turshiz district there are perhaps 50 frames, and further south at and near Duruksh, in the Kain district, I found 450 looms at work in 1899. None of these carpets can vie with the exquisite products of Kerman, although the quality and colour are improving. There are 2,000 to 3,000 looms in which nomad carpets are woven. These Baluch carpets are mainly worked in dark shades of red and blue. They are distinctly pleasing, and make excellent carpets for a dining room or library. . . . .

"The Customs returns for 1903–04 gave the export of this, the staple industry of Khorassan, at 6,233*l.*, whereas for the year under review it is 55,279*l.* The reason for this extraordinary fluctuation is that in 1903–04 a law was re-enacted by which the Customs Department was instructed to seize and burn all carpets in the manufacture of which aniline dyes were employed. The result was a total cessation of exports, which forced the Persian Government to allow these articles to be exported for a certain period. In consequence there has been a rush to export every available carpet before the period of grace expires. The whole of this export is sent across Russia *viâ* Batoum to Constantinople, the chief mart for carpets, although there is a small but growing trade direct to the United States. This is one of the few openings for British trade, as a carpet buyer

Openings for British Trade.

PERSIA—*continued.*

should be able, by saving the Constantinople middleman, to secure a good profit without any risk." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,499.)

Tea.

In the same report, Major Sykes states that the statistics show clearly that the trade in Indian tea is steadily developing, in spite of the very heavy duty under the new regulations.

Indian Manufactures.

He is also of opinion that there is a good opening for the manufactures, both leather and woollen, of Cawnpore. In this connection he writes:—"As the travelling expenses and salary of a European are so heavy, a native agent might perhaps be appointed to represent both the tea and the Cawnpore industries in Khorassan. In such cases to hasten slowly is the highest wisdom, and it is folly to flood such a limited market with a large quantity of goods of any kind; but a cautious, careful and, above all, a continuous policy on the lines suggested above would, I think, produce good results."

Major Sykes further states that there are openings for Indian watch menders, tailors, joiners, carpenters, bootmakers and mechanics of all sorts, and he expresses surprise that a larger number of skilled Indians do not settle at Meshed. Openings on a more ambitious scale are, in his opinion, foredoomed to failure unless conducted by men who know the country and its customs intimately.

Low Quality Prints.

H.M. Consul at Turbat-I-Haidari (Capt. Watson) reports that all the better qualities of cloth (woollen, cotton and silk) imported there are of British manufacture. There is not a great demand for the better quality goods, the population being poor and preferring the cheap Russian goods, especially the highly-coloured cotton prints. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,499.)

MEXICO.

Hydro-Electric Plant.

The "Diario Oficial" of Mexico of the 30th August contains a copy of a contract entered into between the Mexican Government on the one hand, and Señores Licenciado Aquiles Zentella and Edwin J. Johnson, of the Mexican National Sugar Refining Co. on the other hand, for acquiring an appropriation of a maximum of 7,000 litres of water per second for the production of motive power from the River Atoyac in the Canton of Cordoba, State of Vera Cruz, and for carrying out the hydraulic works necessary.

Openings for British Trade.

MEXICO—*continued.*

Hydro-Electric Plant.

The "Diario Oficial" of the 2nd September contains copy of a contract, which has been entered into between the Mexican Government and Señor Andres Lefebvre, for an appropriation from the waters of the River Amacuzac, in the States of Morelos and Guerrero, for the production of motive power. The Concessionnaire is authorised to execute hydraulic works necessary for the utilisation of a maximum of 80,000 litres of water per second.

The "Diarios," containing the above notices may be seen at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

NICARAGUA.

Rice and Maize.

See p. 564 for a notice dealing with the scarcity of cereals in Nicaragua, and a possible opening for rice and maize.

HAYTI.

Railway Material.

A despatch has been received from the Acting British Consul General at Port-au-Prince (Mr. L. J. Jerome), enclosing a copy of "Le Moniteur" of 19th August which contains the text of a concession granted by the Haytian Government to M. Rodolphe Gardère, acting for a company, for the construction and working for a period of 50 years, of a railway from Gonaives to Hinche, *viâ* Ennery, Saint Michel de l'Attalaye and Maissade, with a branch to Gros-Morne.

The copy of "Le Moniteur" which contains the text of the law and of the contract, together with the "cahier des charges," may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

CHILE.

Bottles.

A recent despatch from the Acting British Consul-General in Valparaiso states that beer bottles are made by the Fabrica de Vidrios at Santiago, and also up to quite lately by the Compañia Explotadora de Coronel y Lota. This latter company gave up the factory, in spite of the fact that they had their own coal mines on the spot, and sold the plant to a new company about the beginning of the year; this company is about to start work at Santiago (13th July).

Openings for British Trade.

The beer bottles manufactured are made to suit the crown cork. The small size costs 5 cents each (say about ·78 of a penny), the large size 8 cents each (say about 1·26 pence), and wine bottles 9 to 10 cents each (say about 1·41 to 1·57 pence). Prices are calculated at 15¾*d.* to the dollar. The weight of a large beer bottle is 1 lb. 5½ ozs., and of a small beer bottle 15 ozs.

Samples of the beer bottles may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

ARGENTINA.

Rolling Stock.

According to the "Bulletin" of the International Bureau of the American Republics, the Minister of Public Works of the Argentine Government has ordered certain of the railway companies of that country to increase their rolling stock as follows:—The Great Southern Railway by 1,023 wagons of 30 tons each and 23 locomotives; the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway by 920 wagons of 30 tons each and 30 locomotives; the Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway by 339 wagons of 30 tons each and 7 locomotives; the Buenos Ayres Western Railway by 500 wagons of 30 tons each and 20 locomotives; and the Andine Railway by 50 wagons and 2 locomotives. This new rolling stock must be acquired by the companies before the 31st December next. The companies are allowed, in complying with this order, to purchase a greater or less number of wagons than actually specified above, provided the total tonnage aggregates 30,712, 27,618, 10,194, 15,000, and 1,500 tons, respectively.

Machinery for Mica Mining.

According to the "Boletin Industrial" (Buenos Ayres) the Cordoba sierra in the districts of Alta Gracia and Calamuchita contain large deposits of mica of remarkable quality, which have been favourably reported on by experts. To exploit these mica mines, a company has been formed who will require to purchase the latest machinery for the purpose.

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Brazil.—With reference to the article which appeared at pp. 399-400 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 1st June last, respecting the rise in Brazilian Exchange, and its effects on trade, a despatch has been received from H.M. Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro (Mr. A. Chapman), in which, after alluding to this continued rise, and the expense of living consequent upon currency prices not having fallen in proportion, if at all, he writes:—

"From the report of the Minister of Finance that has just been published, it would appear that the policy of the present administration is to raise exchange to par, 27*d.*, though it is not generally believed that this is as practicable as the report would seem to imply.

"The influx of the loans has created a large reserve of bills in the hands of the Government, and now that the drawings against the coffee and rubber crops are coming in, exchange will naturally continue to rise.

"Coffee prices abroad seem to be in sympathy with the rise in exchange, and this compensates the producer to a certain extent for the decrease of currency he receives through cheaper gold, for whilst his crop represents a gold value his expenses are paid in currency, and it would be natural to suppose that a low rate of exchange would be to his benefit. Exporters and national industries suffer in the same way without the relief of sympathetic markets abroad, whilst native factories that are fostered by protection are working short time, and are loudly complaining that under the present high rates they cannot compete with importers, and call for further protection.

"Money in commercial circles is tight and credits precarious. Those who have contracted under a lower exchange are hard hit, and commerce is dislocated.

"Importers benefit by a high exchange, and are taking advantage of the present rates, but owing to the general depressed state of commerce, the uncertainty of credits, and the want of ready money, business is stagnant.

"Meanwhile the governing bodies are lavishly expending money on public works and improvements, whilst many private persons holding property in Brazil are endeavouring to realise and to withdraw their capital."

Mexico.—The Acting British Consul-General at Port-au-Prince (Mr. L. J. Jerome, late H.M. Consul in the City of Mexico), in a recent communication, writes as follows with regard to trade conditions in Mexico:—

"Competition in Mexico is very keen. It is not a new country, but an old one that has been slowly and surely developing. Our countrymen have neglected it, and a footing on the market cannot be secured without some effort. When proper care is exercised by men on the spot, there are very few bad debts, but the system of doing business is somewhat different.

British Trade Abroad.

"Many of the best firms do not want credit. Cash against documents and collections through a bank are usual; on the other hand, some of the best concerns have their own systems, and foreign firms cannot give any references in Europe; in fact, some of the most powerful local firms have no other bankers than those of the State in which they reside."

Moscow.—In his Report for 1904 (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,441) H.M. Consul at Moscow (Mr. M. Grove) after alluding to the alleged difficulty of getting British manufacturers to make minor alterations to suit buyers' requirements, and to the need for quotations in Russian weights, measures and coinage as given by German traders, writes:—"I can show hundreds of British catalogues sent me annually, in English, with the national—and to the Russian, often incomprehensible—weights, measures, and coinage; these are often accompanied with a request to make the contents known. If it proves impossible to prepare catalogues in Russian—though several British firms do so now—catalogues in German are well understood."

Kieff.—H.M. Consul at Kieff (Mr. H. P. Smith), in his report on the trade of that district recently published, writes as follows with reference to the displacement of British goods:—

"If the Russian buyer finds that an article of a certain shape or colour is saleable, he will not readily be persuaded to adopt a different article, which is not in demand or in accordance with the ideas of his customers. . . .

"The whole art of foreign trading consists in the adaptation of one's goods as much as possible to the requirements of one's foreign customers, in meeting the customs of the country as far as possible in regard to trading facilities and then in pushing the trade vigorously."

After referring to the competition of Germany and Austria-Hungary in the trade in portable engines and steam-threshing machines, Mr. Smith continues:—

"Without admitting the correctness of the number of threshing sets claimed to have been sold by the Austro-Hungarian and German makers in Russia, one cannot get over the fact that the British manufacturers are not holding their own; and whether this is due to an increase in the demand of which they may possibly not be aware, or whether they are being ousted by other countries, the question is one which deserves prompt and careful consideration. It ought to be kept in view that the principal German and Austro-Hungarian makers run their own branches in Russia, or take over the *delcredere* of the sales made by their agents, while the British makers, with one exception, have appointed agents who represent them. Either system involves a considerable lock-up of capital—less possibly under the universal

British Trade Abroad.

British system—yet one wonders how the Austro-Hungarian and German manufacturers can possibly give the long terms of payment they do to the Russian buyers of their machinery while carrying on large manufacturing establishments.

"It has often been said that the banking system of these countries is more elastic than that of the United Kingdom, and more ready to foster important industries. Perhaps it would be nearer the mark to say that many of the commercial undertakings in these countries are run by banks, and in certain cases even enjoy the financial support of their respective Governments, in addition to the reduced railway rates on the State railways of these countries to the frontiers of Russia.

"Whatever the reason may be, the fact remains that notwithstanding the recognised superiority of the British-made steam threshing machinery, the competition of Germany and Austria-Hungary has now assumed such proportions as seriously to menace the United Kingdom's hold on the Russian market; and the only remedy would seem to be for the British makers of this class of machinery to conform their terms of payment to those of their energetic competitors, and by so doing retain their hold on the Russian trade. This question is not purely a manufacturing one; it also affects the shipping interest of the United Kingdom, as the freight of threshing machinery to the ports of Russia has hitherto been an important item in the shipping trade between the two countries." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,480.)

TRADE OF FRENCH INDO-CHINA, FRENCH INDIA, DAHOMEY, AND ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON.

The following particulars relating to the trade of French Indo-China, French India, Dahomey, St. Pierre and Miquelon during 1904, as compared with the preceding year, are extracted from the "Feuille de Renseignements," the official organ of the French Colonial Office:—

French Indo-China.

——	1903.	1904.
	Francs.	Francs.
Imports	204,253,872	184,995,664
Exports	120,448,505	156,409,846
Total trade	324,702,377	341,405,510

Imports from foreign countries into French Indo-China decreased in value from 106,857,563 francs in 1903 to 98,298,428 francs in 1904. The diminution in imports was chiefly in railway material and locomotives; flour and paddy show increases, as also cotton (raw).

Trade of French Indo-China, French India, Dahomey, and St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Larger shipments of rice and pepper account for the increase in exports.

French India.

——	1903.	1904.
	Francs.	Francs.
Imports	9,319,596	5,737,936
Exports	28,059,019	30,534,504
Total trade...	37,378,615	36,272,440

A diminution of 2,022,267 francs is shown in the value of imports into French India from foreign countries. Decreases in imports are noticeable under the headings of coal, cotton goods, linen and paper.

Amongst exports, ground nuts show the largest increase.

Dahomey.

——	1903.	1904.
	Francs.	Francs.
Imports	11,264,258	10,681,238
Exports	9,540,066	11,156,009
Total trade	20,804,324	21,837,247

From foreign countries the imports into Dahomey in 1904 amounted in value to 8,904,603 francs, as compared with 9,175,110 francs in 1903.

A decrease in imports took place in cotton goods, guns and ammunition, whilst as regards exports, palm oil shows an advance.

Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

——	1903.	1904.
	Francs.	Francs.
Imports	8,306,117	6,230,687
Exports	9,552,744	7,660,384
Total trade	17,858,861	13,891,071

Imports from foreign countries into Saint Pierre and Miquelon decreased in value from 4,081,264 francs in 1903 to 3,008,902 francs in 1904. The diminution in imports took place in timber, cordage, fish-hooks, anchors, cables, &c., and that in exports in cod fish.

COAL INDUSTRY OF BRITISH INDIA IN 1904.

According to an official memorandum received at the Board of Trade, through the India Office, the divisions of mining properties show considerable changes in Bengal, the number of mines in that province in 1904 being 61 fewer than in 1901, while there was an increase in 1904 of 17 mines in other provinces, mainly owing to small workings started in the Jhelum district of the Panjab. The total number of coal mines in operation in 1904 was 296 (256 in Bengal), compared with 302 (279 in Bengal) in 1903. The production in Bengal in 1904 represents more than six-sevenths of the whole Indian output of coal, which has been as follows in the last five years :—

	Tons.		Tons.
1900	6,118,692	1903	7,438,386
1901	6,635,727	1904	8,216,706
1902	7,424,402		

The output of the several districts in the last two years was as follows :—

——	1903.	1904.
	Tons.	Tons.
Bengal	6,361,212	7,063,680
Singareni (Nizam's Territory)	362,733	419,546
Assam (Makum)	239,328	266,765
Central Provinces	159,154	139,027
Central India (Umaria)	193,277	185,774
Panjab	43,704	45,594
Baluchistan	46,909	49,867
Upper Burma	9,306	1,105
Bikaner	21,764	45,078
Kashmir (Jammu)	999	270

The output has increased every year for the last nineteen years, *i.e.*, from 1,294,221 tons in 1885 to 8,216,706 tons in 1904. Dullness of trade was the cause of the increase in 1903 being very small, but there was a better demand in 1904, and the quantity raised was larger by 778,320 tons, or 10·5 per cent. Production has declined in the Warora and Umaria collieries (in the Central Provinces and Central India) and in Burma, but has risen elsewhere, nearly 90 per cent. of the rise being in Bengal. The two principal fields of Raneegunj and Jherriah, especially the latter, have largely increased their output, and the new Palamau field has improved its yield by 50 per cent., but in the Giridih field, which ranks next to Jherriah, the production was almost stationary. The exports of coal from Calcutta in 1904-05 amounted to 2,375,977 tons, about three-fourths of this being loaded into coasting vessels; and including 770,589 tons of bunker coal shipped for use on steamers engaged in the foreign and coasting trade, 3,146,566 tons of coal left the port, or nearly 45 per cent. of the output of Bengal collieries in 1904.

The steady demand did not improve prices, which were kept by competition at a very low level, often giving a bare margin of

Coal Industry of British India in 1904.

profit. The prices of Bengal coal (Jherriah best, loaded into waggons) has been as follows in the last four years :—

		Per ton.			Per ton.
1902	January	R.3¾	1904	January	R.3⅜
	July ...	3½		July ...	3½
1903	January	3 7/16	1905	January	3½
	July ...	3½			

The exports of Indian coal to places beyond India were greater in 1904-05 than in any previous year, but they are still comparatively small, and the trade does not give promise of great development, for both the field and the amount of consumption are limited by the competition of English coal in one direction, and of cheap Australian and Japanese coal in the opposite direction. The chief customer for Indian coal is Ceylon, which with the Straits Settlements took 86 per cent. of the total exports in 1904-05. The quantities exported during the last three years have been as follows :—

	1902–03.	1903–04.	1904–05.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
To Ceylon	274,473	257,251	374,754
„ Straits	89,592	142,256	143,729
„ Mauritius	14,700	8,802	13,413
„ Aden	21,214	43,410	14,598
„ Sumatra	14,655	13,975	30,802
„ Other countries...	16,918	27,376	17,536
Total	431,552	493,070	594,832

Although India is in a position to supply all her own wants in fuel, the imports of foreign coal are still considerable, and amounted in 1904-05 to 252,393 tons imported as merchandise, and 22,812 tons as Government stores, this, however, being little more than one-third of the quantity imported ten years previously. Nearly three-eighths of the private imports and the whole of the Government imports were from the United Kingdom, mostly landed in Bombay, the remainder coming from Australia (10,746 tons) and Japan (55,443 tons). The quantity imported was 40 per cent. greater than in 1903-04, as the British coal trade was depressed and the freights for Welsh coal to Bombay and Karachi fell as low as 6*s*. a ton owing to the remunerative freights for produce obtainable for the return journey. There was a notable increase of imports from Japan, also due to the cheap freights charged by returning colliers which had carried Welsh coal to Japan.

The railways in India take a large share of the coal produced in the country, the consumption having risen steadily from 1,119,621 tons in 1895 to 2,447,341 tons in 1904, or about 29 per cent. of the total output in 1904, while in that year they burnt only 17,432 tons of imported coal.

COTTON IN THE ARGENTINE CHACO.

According to a report by H.M. Consul at Buenos Ayres (Mr. A. C. Ross, C.B.), the business of cotton growing in the Argentine Chaco promises well. The best land, in the opinion of an agricultural expert, and as the result of actual cultivation with good management, gives an average crop of 3,500 kilos. of seed cotton per hectare, and will in good years give 4,500 kilos. Second-class land will average 2,500 kilos., with frequent returns of 3,500 kilos. Probably one-fourth of all the arable land comes under the first class. The cost of picking, employing the very unskilled labour that is available, is high, probably about 6 c. per kilo. (5*s.* 3*d.* per cwt.).

The cost of seed and tillage up to the time of picking is about 30 dols. per hectare (1*l.* 1*s.* per acre), so that a crop from an area of 3,500 hectares would cost per hectare—for seed and tillage, 30 dols.; picking, at 6 c. per kilo., 210 dols., making a total of 240 dols.; and the return would be—3,500 kilos., at 13 c., 455 dols., or a profit of 215 dols. per hectare (7*l.* per acre). The owner of a farm in the Chaco of 100 hectares may be supposed to have 50 hectares pasture and 50 hectares arable. If he plants but 10 hectares he would get from that alone 2,150 dols. (185*l.*) in the first year. He would, of course, grow other crops in rotation with cotton, which would more than provide the living of his family, the interest on the money invested in land, stock and implements, so that the profit made on the cotton would all be clear gain. The picking season in the Chaco is from March to June inclusive.

On first-class lands a selling price of 5 to 6 c. per kilo. will leave a fair margin, and on second-class 8 or 9 c. will give a good result. If an average of 10 c. per kilo. can be obtained, taking one year with another, all the cotton lands of the Chaco will give most profitable returns, and the best of them will make their owners wealthy in a few years.

The main difficulties in connection with the industry are: (1) labour; (2) transport; (3) the ravages of a caterpillar. The first has not so far become serious. The supply of Indian labour has been sufficient for the comparatively small area of land that has been planted with cotton. The second would be overcome by an association of growers or mill-owners for the purpose of acquiring the plant (lighters and tugs) necessary for the transport from one of the river ports in the Chaco to an ocean seaport down river. The third has been studied by an entomologist from the Agricultural Department of the Argentine Government. But it has not yet been determined whether the insect is actually the cotton caterpillar *Aletia argillacea Hübner*, although it produces the same effects on the cotton plants and can be combated by similar means.

In the provinces of Rioja, Catamarca, Salta, Jujuy, Tucuman, and in the territories of Formosa and Missiones, cotton has been successfully grown, but as no ginning mills have been built there has been little encouragement to effect planting on a large scale.

Cotton in the Argentine Chaco.

In former times, when there was little or no communication with the old world, cotton was grown in the places above-mentioned and in Paraguay to supply the wants of the people. Nowadays imported textiles undersell native hand-made fabrics, and planting has almost ceased.

Without steam ginning mills there will be no planting, but according to rough estimates of receipts and expenditure shown in Mr. Ross's report, there is a place for the mill owner.

Two samples* of cotton were sent by Mr. Ross with his report:—1. Cotton generally grown in the Chaco, ginned at the Anglo-Argentine Cotton Company's factory in Resistencia, of American origin but now known as Chaco. 2. Unginned cotton of the "Doughty" class, grown at the company's estancia at Vedia. (*Foreign Office, Miscellaneous Series*, 639.)

* To be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade. 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES.

BRAZIL.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a copy of a Bill which has been laid before the Brazilian Legislature, proposing to increase the proportion of import duty leviable in gold from 25 to 50 per cent. in the case of certain articles, so long as the rate of exchange remains above 13*d.* to the milreis. As soon as the rate of exchange falls to 13*d.* or below, it is proposed that the present proportion of 25 per cent. gold and 75 per cent. paper shall be reverted to.

Proposed Increase in Proportion of Import Duty leviable in Gold.

Among the articles, the import duty on which will be affected should the Bill in its present form become law, are the following:—

Cordage; hides and skins, raw and dressed; milk, butter, and cheese; rice, husked or unhusked; meats (fresh or preserved) and bacon; flour and biscuits; oils; fermented beverages; salt; wines; cotton yarn; cotton bags; cotton hosiery; cotton lace; cotton piece goods, plain or figured; cloths, kerseymeres, cheviots, American flannels, serge, and diagonals, of wool or of wool and cotton; canvas, Brittany cloth, cambric, muslin, Irish linens, &c.; paper of all kinds, and pasteboard; earthenware; certain porcelain and glasswares; pig and puddled iron; French nails; waggons, carriages, &c., for railways; matches and match splints.

The present Bill is apparently not a Government measure, but H.M. Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro, in forwarding the text of the Bill, states that this or a similar measure will probably be passed.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Customs Decisions.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of a Supplement (No. 48) to the Customs Tariff Guide, dated 21st July last, giving Customs decisions respecting the rates of duty leviable on various articles imported into the Commonwealth.

The following are the principal decisions given :—

Articles.	Rates of Duty.
Asbestos—pipe lagging asbestos core, with loose spun covering of asbestos	Free.
Bricks—	
If for reverberatory furnaces, irrespective of branding ...	Free.
Confetti (paper)—	
As manufactured stationery	25 % *ad val.*
Flour, pea—	
As prepared flour	2*s.* 6*d.* per cental.
Fuse chains (chains for inside a watch)—	
As watches, parts of	20 % *ad val.*
Fuses, electric detonators, for mining purposes—	
As fuse	Free.
*Handles, chest, if trunk—	
As minor articles for bags, &c.	Free.
*Hats and caps—	
Sewn, item 63 (*c*). As a working rule, it may be assumed that where the shape of a hat or cap is determined by the foundation or frame, such hats or caps are not to be considered sewn within the meaning of item 63 (*c*). Straw hats, and such hats as require to be made on blocks or presses, are not to be classed as sewn.	
Moulds, bougie, similar to suppository moulds—	
As tools of trade	Free.
Orgoblo (an electric organ blower)—	
As electrical machinery and appliances	12½ % *ad val.*
Polish, peerless, composed of lime with carbonate of lime and fat—	
As other articles	Free.
Ribbon (ruching)—	
As piece-goods, velvets, &c.	15 % *ad val.*
Sharks' fins—	
As fish, n.e.i.	5*s.* per cwt.

* Revised decision.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Penalty for Incorrect Invoices for Goods by Parcels Post.

The Cape Customs Department have thought it desirable to issue the following warning in the "Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette" for 22nd August last, with reference to invoices for goods imported by parcels post in the Colony :—

"In consequence of the steps taken by this Department to prevent the underpayment of duty on goods sent per Parcels Post, the suppliers (especially

dress, mantle, robe, &c., makers) are forwarding to persons resident in this Colony false invoices, to correspond with the false declaration of value made by them on the form or label affixed to the parcel under the Postal Regulations, with a view to their production in the event of such declared value being challenged by this Department.

"It is, therefore, notified for general information that under the Customs Act 10 of 1872, any person who makes use of any false document in the clearing of goods shall, for every offence, forfeit the sum of 200*l.*, and that proceedings will be instituted for the recovery of the said penalty in every case."

MONTSERRAT.

Revised Import Tariff.

The Board of Trade have received from the Government of the Leeward Islands a copy of the Montserrat "Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1905" (No. 9 of 1905), which came into force in the Presidency on the date of its publication on 30th June, 1905.

The present Ordinance repeals various Customs Tariff Ordinances* previously in force, and at the same time provides for the imposition of new, and, for the most part, increased duties on various articles imported into the Presidency of Montserrat.

The following is a complete statement of the import duties in force under the new Ordinance :—

Articles.	Rates of Import Duty.	
	s.	*d.*
Aerated and mineral waters ... ... per doz. reputed pints	0	9
Ale, beer, porter, stout, perry and cider { per doz. reputed quarts	2	3
Ale, beer, porter, stout, perry and cider { in casks, per gallon	0	9
Almonds, currants, citron, figs, prunes and raisins ... ... per lb.	0	3
Arrowroot, sago, tapioca and all similar starches, and all preparations of the same ... ... per 100 lbs.	3	1½
Asses ... ... each	6	0
Beef, salted or pickled ... ... per 100 lbs.	6	3
Bitters of all kinds ... ... per doz. reputed pints	3	0
Brandy, not sweetened, and not exceeding the strength of proof by Sykes' hydrometer, and so in proportion for any greater strength than the strength of proof ... ... per gallon	7	6
Bread and biscuits, except fancy biscuits or sweetened biscuits, or biscuits in tins, per barrel not exceeding 100 lbs., and other packages in like proportion	1	8
Bricks and tiles ... ... per 1,000	6	3
Butter ... ... per lb.	0	1½
Candles, tallow ... ... „	0	1½
„ except tallow ... ... „	0	3
Cattle ... ... each	7	6
Cement, per barrel, not exceeding 400 lbs., and other packages in like proportion	2	3

* Nos. 1 and 9 of 1896, No. 5 of 1897, Nos. 3 and 4 of 1904, and Nos. 2 and 4 of 1905.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

MONTSERRAT—*continued.*

Articles.		Rates of Import Duty.	
		s.	*d.*
Cheese	per lb.	0	1½
Cigars, if over the value or cost of 6*s.* per 100	„	5	0
„ if of or under the value or cost of 6*s.* per 100 ...	„	3	0
Cigarettes	„	3	9
Coal, coke and patent fuel	per ton	3	0
Coffee, cocoa and chocolate not prepared with sugar artificially incorporated in a notable proportion	per lb.	0	1½
Cordials, liqueurs, and sweetened spirits	per gallon	7	6
Corn and wheat	per bushel	0	4½
Corn meal, per barrel or bag, not exceeding 196 lbs., and other packages in like proportion		3	0
Drugs, viz.: Opium, bhang, or gange...	per lb.	15	0
Fish, dried or smoked	per cwt.	2	3
„ pickled, viz.:—Herrings, mackerel, and other pickled fish (except salmon), per barrel, not exceeding 200 lbs., and other packages in like proportion		3	9
„ pickled salmon, per barrel, not exceeding 200 lbs., and other packages in like proportion...		12	0
Flour of wheat, per barrel or bag, not exceeding 196 lbs., and other packages in like proportion...		7	6
„ oatmeal or rye, per barrel or bag, not exceeding 224 lbs., and other packages in like proportion ...		6	0
Fruits and vegetables, canned, tinned, bottled, or otherwise preserved	per lb.	0	1½
Gin, not sweetened, and not exceeding the strength of proof by Sykes' hydrometer, and so in proportion for any greater strength than the strength of proof	per gallon	6	3
Gunpowder and all explosives	per lb.	0	9
Guns	each	30	0
Hams and bacon	per lb.	0	1½
Horses	each	45	0
Lard and its compounds	per lb.	0	0¾
Lumber, viz.:—Oak, beech, elm, mahogany, hickory, and all hard wood, per 1,000 ft. by superficial measurement, 1 in. thick		31	3
Lumber, pitch pine, per 1,000 ft., by superficial measurement, 1 in. thick		12	6
Lumber, white pine and spruce, per 1,000 ft. by superficial measurement, 1 in. thick		9	4½
Macaroni and vermicelli	per lb.	0	0¾
Matches in boxes or packets	per gross	0	4½
Milk, condensed	per 100 lbs	1	8
Mules	each	15	0
Oats	per bushel	0	4½
Oil, castor, cod liver, and olive...	per gallon	1	6
„ all other not being rock oil	„	1	0
„ kerosene, per case of eight Imperial gallons, and so in proportion		2	3
Oil meal, linseed meal, cotton seed meal, and similar preparations	per 100 lbs.	1	8
Oleomargarine, and similar compounds	per lb.	0	1½
Onions and garlic	„	0	0¼
Peas, beans, barley, and calavances	per bushel	0	9

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

MONTSERRAT—*continued*.

Articles.		Rates of Import Duty.
		s. *d.*
Perfumery, and perfumed spirits, hair oils, pomades, powders, toilet or fancy soaps, and similar toilet preparations	*ad val.*	30 %
Pistols and revolvers	each	15 0
Pork, in pickle or salt	per lb.	0 0¾
Potatoes, other than sweet potatoes, per barrel or bag, not exceeding 160 lbs., and other packages in proportion ...		2 3
Rice	per 100 lbs.	3 1½
Rum, not sweetened and not exceeding the strength of proof by Sykes' hydrometer, and so in proportion for any greater strength than the strength of proof	per gallon	4 10½
Sausages and tongues not in tins	per lb.	0 1½
Shingles, cedar and pine	per 1,000	3 1½
„ Cypress and Wallaba...	„	6 3
Shooks	each bundle	0 4½
„ with heads	„	0 6
Soap, other than fancy or toilet	per lb.	0 0¾
Spars of wood	*ad val.*	15 %
Spirits not otherwise specified and not exceeding the strength of proof by Sykes' hydrometer, and so in proportion for any greater strength than the strength of proof	per gallon	6 3
Staves	per 1,000	12 6
Sugar, refined, and preparations with sugar artificially incorporated in a notable proportion	per 100 lbs.	2 1
Sugar, unrefined	„	1 8
Tallow and grease	*ad val.*	15 %
Tea	per lb.	0 9
Tobacco, viz., leaf tobacco if imported in packages containing not less than 500 lbs.	„	1 1½
Tobacco, viz., leaf if imported in packages containing less than 500 lbs.	„	3 0
Tobacco, manufactured tobacco including snuff	„	3 9
Vinegar	per gallon	0 4½
Whisky, not exceeding the strength of proof by Sykes' hydrometer, and so in proportion for any greater strength than the strength of proof	„	6 9
Wine, including all flavoured or medicated wine	*ad val.*	37½ %
Wood hoops	per 1,200 pieces	12 6
All other dutiable goods...	*ad val.*	15 %

The articles specified in the free list are, for the most part, the same as those previously allowed to be imported free of duty, and include goods (except rum), the produce of the Leeward Islands (other than Dominica), re-imported articles which have been exported for repair, sucking animals, passengers' baggage, blasting powder for use in making roads, bullion, books and other printed matter, charts and maps, chemicals for agricultural purposes, Consular articles, eggs, fertilizers and manures, fish (fresh or on ice), fruits and vegetables, not preserved (except potatoes, other

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

MONTSERRAT—*continued.*

than sweet potatoes), furniture and household effects, gold in bars, plate or wire, ice, insecticides, music, multiple effect machinery for manufacturing sugar, military and naval stores, oil for use as fuel in oil engines, packages, pictures and engravings, plants, shrubs and seeds, poultry, articles for use in public worship and education, railway and tramway materials, salt, shipbuilding materials, natural history specimens, steam engines and machinery for agriculture, irrigation or mining, for the manufacture of sugar or rum, the ginning or baling of cotton, or for making cotton seed oil, surgical instruments, telegraphic apparatus, tombstones and railings for graves, turtle, samples not for sale, and workmen's tools and professional apparatus when brought by a passenger for his own use.

New Export Tariff.

A copy of a further Ordinance (No. 5 of 1905) has also been received, which provides for the imposition of export duties from 1st April, 1905, on certain articles, the growth, produce and manufacture of the Presidency of Montserrat, on exportation therefrom.

The following is a complete list of the export duties imposed by the Ordinance:—

Articles.	Rates of Export Duty.
	s. *d.*
Animals—	
Asses ... ... per head	2 0
Cattle... ... ... „	6 0
Calves under 6 months, with their mothers	Free
Goats ... ... per head	0 4
Horses ... ... „	5 0
Mules ... ... „	7 6
Pigs ... ... „	0 6
Sheep ... ... „	0 6
Bay leaves ... ... per 100 lbs.	1 0
Carts, felloes and naves ... ... per dozen	0 3
Cocoa and coffee ... ... per 100 lbs.	2 1
Cotton—	
Sea Island or other long staple varieties... ... ... „	4 2
Short staple varieties ... ... „	2 1
Seed ... ... „	4 2
Corn ... ...per bushel	0 2
Essential oils—	
Bay ... ... per gallon	2 0
Other kinds if expressed or equelled ... ... „	1 6
All other kinds if otherwise extracted ... ... „	0 6
Fruits and vegetables, fresh—	
Bananas and plantains ... ... per 100 bunches	2 1
Limes and oranges ... ... per barrel	0 2
„ „ per box not above 2 cubic feet, per 100 boxes	2 1
Sweet potatoes ... ... per barrel	0 2
All other kinds in boxes ... ... per 5 cubic feet	0 2

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

MONTSERRAT—*continued*.

Articles.	Rates of Export Duty.
	s. d.
Hides and skins—	
Cattle hides ... ... each	0 3
All other skins ... ... per dozen	0 3
Lime juice—	
Concentrated ... ... per 100 gallons	8 4
Raw ... ... " "	0 10
Limes, pickled ... ... per barrel	0 6
Molasses ... ... per 100 gallons	2 1
Papaine ... ... per lb.	0 6
Peas and beans ... ...per bushel	0 1
Poultry ... ... per dozen	0 3
Starches (viz., arrowroot, sago, tapioca, cassava, and all similar starches and preparations of the same) ... per 100 lbs.	1 0½
Sugar—	
Muscovado ... — per hogshead (over 32 in. truss)	2 6
Muscovado ... — per tierce (over 28 in. and less than 32 in.)	2 0
Muscovado ... — per cask (less than 28 in.)	1 0
Muscovado ... — per barrel or bag	0 5
Syrup ... ... per 100 gallons	4 2
Tamarinds ... ... per barrel	0 2

JAMAICA.

Additional Excise Duties on Soap and Matches.

The Board of Trade have received, from the Colonial Secretary, Jamaica, a copy of a Law (No. 6 of 1905) whereby the excise duties upon soap and matches manufactured in Jamaica are temporarily increased.

The present Law has been passed in connection with the imposition of a surtax of 6 per cent., under Law No. 3 of 1905, upon similar articles imported into the Colony (*see* "Board of Trade Journal" for 27th April last), and will remain in force so long as Law No. 3 of 1905 is in operation.

The following are the *additional* excise duties imposed by the present Law, which takes effect from 21st March, 1905:—

Articles.	Rates of Additional Excise Duty.
	s. d.
Soap—per box, each box containing 56 lbs. weight of soap, and in proportion for any greater or less quantity... ...	0 2
Matches—per 100 gross of boxes, each box to contain 50 sticks or less, and in proportion for any greater or less quantity	9 9

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

JAMAICA—*continued.*

Copies of Regulations have also been received from the Government of Jamaica affecting the importation of petrol, gasolene, petroleum, and sugar into the Colony.

Regulations relating to Importation of Petrol, Petroleum, and Sugar.

The Regulations provide that petrol, gasolene, and petroleum, giving off an inflammable vapour at a temperature lower than 95 deg. Fahr., when in quantity exceeding eight ounces, shall be exclusively contained in strong metal vessels so constructed as to prevent leakage or escape of vapour, and that the vessels shall be marked in conspicuous characters, "highly inflammable. Do not approach this vessel with a light or fire of any description."

No petrol or gasolene under 95 deg. Fahr. will be admitted into the Colony, *except in stout steel drums;* well-fitting screw stoppers are indispensable.

In the case of the importation of crude petroleum, a fee of 10*s.* will be charged for analysis of any sample wrongfully claimed to be "crude petroleum," the duty on which is, under Law No. 2 of 1905, 1*d.* per gallon.

The Regulations made under the Sugar Convention Law, No. 10 of 1904, were issued by the Governor-in-Council on 8th August, 1905, and require all importations of sugar (other than molasses and sugar-sweetened products) to be accompanied by a certificate of origin. The Collector of Customs, for any sufficient cause, may, if he see fit, waive the operation of these sugar regulations until 1st November next.

RUSSIA.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a despatch from H.M. Ambassador at St. Petersburg, reporting that the Russian Government, by an Imperial Decree issued on the 15th inst., have abolished the additional duties levied on certain iron and steel manufactures and machinery, on white resin, and on bicycles, of United States origin. (For particulars of these additional duties, *see* the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 7th March, 1901, and for the 20th June, 1901.)

Abolition of Additional Duties on certain Imports from the United States.

GERMANY.

In accordance with an Order of the Director-General of Customs at Hamburg, *artificial birds* made of cotton-wool and mounted on wire, are to be dutiable on importation into Germany under No. 20 *c* (3) of the Tariff, at the rate of 120 marks per 100 kilogs. (6½*d.* per lb.).

Tariff Classification.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

BERMUDA.

Revised Customs Tariff.

The Board of Trade have received from the Colonial Secretary at Bermuda a copy of the "Appropriation Act, 1905" (No. 9 of 1905), which provides for the imposition of duties on articles imported into the Colony of Bermuda to 30th June, 1906.

The present Act re-imposes, for the most part, the import duties previously in force—the principal alterations made being as follows :—

Articles.	Rates of Import Duty.	
	Old Tariff.	New Tariff.
	s. d.	*s. d.*
Bananas—		
If imported in the months of July—November, 1904, and June, 1905 per bunch	1 6	—
If imported in other months	Free	—
If imported in the months of July—December, 1905, and May and June, 1906 ... ... per bunch	—	2 6
If imported in other months	—	Free
Bulbs of the lilium longiflorum per 1,000	Free	10*l.**
Eggs ... ... per doz.	3*d.* all the year round	If imported in—July, August and September, 1905, and April, May and June, 1906, 3*d.* Other months, 5 % *ad val.*
Potatoes—per barrel or bag not exceeding 180 lbs. during the months of January to August	—	4 0
Wood alcohol, wood naphtha, or methyl-alcohol ... ... per gall.	5 % *ad val.*	0 3

* The Bermuda Colonial Secretary states that this duty has been imposed to prevent the importation of inferior Japanese bulbs.

MEXICO.

Temporary Reduction of Duty on Wheat.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 124 of the "Journal" for the 20th July last, respecting the temporary reduction of the Mexican import duty on wheat to 1 peso 50 cts. per 100 kilogs. (gross weight), the Board of Trade are now in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the reduced duty is to remain in force until the 31st December next, after which date the duty will be raised to 3 pesos per 100 kilogs. (gross weight), in accordance with the revised Customs Tariff.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

BELGIUM—GERMANY.

New Commercial Treaty between Belgium and Germany. New Schedule of Import Duties in Belgium.

With reference to the notice published at p. 499 of last week's issue of the "Board of Trade Journal," the following is a translation of a portion of the new schedule of duties to be levied on German imports into Belgium, the schedule being equally applicable to imports from the United Kingdom:—

Tariff No.	Articles.	Rate of Duty. At present.	Rate of Duty. Under the Tariff Schedule of the new Belgian-German Treaty.
		Frs. Cts.	Frs. Cts.
Ex 1	Starch	Free.	Free.
Ex 2	Live animals—		
	Sheep—	*Per head.*	*Per head.*
	Rams, ewes, and wethers ...	2 00	2 00
	Lambs	1 00	1 00
	Poultry	Free.	Free.
3	Arms	"	"
		Per hectol.	*Per hectol.*
Ex 5 (*i*)	Beer, in casks	5 00	5 00
Ex 6	Wood—		
	Poles and pieces of unbarked and unsawn wood having a circumference of less than 75 centimetres at the thick end ...	*Per cub. metre.* 1 00	*Per cub. metre.* 1 00
	Manufactures of wood—		
	Casks, fitted together or in shooks—		*Per* 100 *kilogs.*
	Of oak	10 % *ad val.*	5 00
	Of other wood		2 00
	Other manufactures	10 % "	10 % *ad val.*
Ex 10	Caoutchouc, manufactured	10 % "	10 % "
11	Printing type	Free.	Free.
Ex 15	Twine from 2 m.m. to 8 m.m. in diameter	"	"
Ex 17	Husked rice	"	"
	Salt, crude	"	"
Ex 19	Glue	"	"
	Mineral waters of all kinds	"	"
Ex 24	Woollen yarn—	*Per* 100 *kilogs.*	*Per* 100 *kilogs.*
	Carded	5 00	5 00
	Combed—		
	Single—		
	Not dyed	15 00	15 00
	Dyed	20 00	20 00
	Twisted—		
	Not dyed	20 00	20 00
	Dyed	25 00	25 00
	Yarns of silk [not including those prepared for retail sale]*	Free	Free

* Words in square brackets added in New Treaty.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

BELGIUM—GERMANY—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Rate of Duty. At present.	Rate of Duty. Under the Tariff Schedule of the new Belgian-German Treaty.
		Frs. Cts.	Frs. Cts.
Ex 27	Wearing apparel, linen, and ready-made articles of all kinds—		
	Linen [*lingerie*] of all kinds—		
	Simply sewn, neither ornamented nor embroidered ...	15 % *ad val.*	15 % *ad val.*
	Other, of all kinds	20 % „	18 % „
	Note.—Linen provided with tie bands not having an ornamental character; also linen simply pleated or trimmed with pleats of the same tissue as that of which the article is made, are to be regarded as "simply sewn, neither ornamented nor embroidered."		
	Clothing for women [not including clothing of silk, pure or in combination with other textile materials, the silk predominating in weight]*—		
	Simply sewn, without ornament or embroidery ...	15 % *ad val.*	15 % *ad val.*
	Other, of all kinds	20 % „	18 % „
	Note.—Only clothing the principal outer part of which consists of pure or mixed silk is considered as "clothing for women, of pure or mixed silk"; no account being taken of the lining and ornaments of pure or mixed silk.		
	Clothing for men, not specially enumerated†	15 % „	15 % „
	Hosiery	15 % „	15 % „
	Articles made up wholly or in part, not comprised among those enumerated above [and not specially tariffed]* ...	15 % „	15 % „
Ex 28	Colza, rape seed, palm-nut oil (palm-kernel oil, copra oil)	Free.	Free.
29	Scientific instruments and apparatus	Free	Free
	Note. — Photographic instruments and apparatus specially constructed with a view to scientific research (astronomy, meteorology, micrography, &c.) are included in the category of "scientific instruments and apparatus."		
30	Musical instruments	10 % *ad val.*	10 % *ad val.*

* Words in square brackets added in new Treaty.
† *i.e.*, excluding woollen clothing and hats.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

BELGIUM—GERMANY—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Rate of Duty. At present.	Rate of Duty. Under the Tariff Schedule of the new Belgian-German Treaty.
Ex 33	Machines, implements, and tools—	Frs. Cts. *Per* 100 *kilogs.*	Frs. Cts. *Per* 100 *kilogs.*
	Engine belts—		
	Of leather, india-rubber, or similar materials	30 00	30 00
	Of all other materials ...	20 00	20 00
	Machines, implements and tools, other—(*except* the following :— Locomotives, with or without tender; locomobiles; steam turbines ; electrical and electro-magnetic machines, motors, and other apparatus, including telegraphic and telephonic apparatus; dairy machines and apparatus ; and card-clothing) :—		
	Of aluminium	40 00	40 00
	Of cast-iron	2 00	2 00
	Of wrought-iron or steel ...	4 00	4 00
	Of wood	10 % *ad val.*	10 % *ad val.*
	Of copper or any other material	*Per* 100 *kilogs.* 12 00	*Per* 100 *kilogs.* 12 00

Notes to No. *Ex* 33.—(1) Machines and implements imported in detached parts (not set up) will be dutiable according to the material predominating in weight in the article when set up, if the following rules are observed :—

Parts of machines and implements may be imported all together or in several successive consignments.

All the partial consignments must be presented for Customs clearance at the same Custom-house and within a fixed period (not exceeding two months) to be indicated by the importer at the time when the first consignment is presented.

When introducing a machine or implement in detached parts, or several detached parts of a machine or implement, the importer must present, at the same time with the declaration, the plans and drawings of the completed object, together with a list of the important parts, according to their kind, the number and weight of each part, indicating approximately the total weight of the small accessory parts.

If, after the clearance of several detached parts, the other parts are not presented for Customs clearance within the fixed period, the duties provided for "detached parts of machines and implements" must be paid on the parts already imported. However, the absence of some accessory parts of little importance will not prevent the levying of the duty provided for the complete article.

Until the final clearance of all the partial consignments the Customs have the right to demand a guarantee for the payment of the higher duties if required, and to furnish the parts separately introduced with a mark of identity. They have also the right to satisfy themselves, at the expense of the importer, after the setting up of the machine or implement, that all the parts comprising the partial consignments belong to the machine or implement in question.

Exchange or spare parts shall always pay import duties separately.

(2) Underground or submarine electric cables are included among the machines, implements, and tools, the duties on which are consolidated.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

BELGIUM—GERMANY—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Rate of Duty. At Present.	Rate of Duty. Under the Tariff Schedule of the new Belgian-German Treaty.
		Frs. Cts.	Frs. Cts.
34	Morocco leather wares	15 % *ad val.*	15 % *ad val.*
Ex 36	Cement; thermite (mixture of aluminium in powder and oxides); emery, even ground, or in boxes or similar small receptacles	Free	Free
38	Small wares (*mercerie*) and hardware [(including paper collars, cuffs, &c., covered with tissue)]† ...	10 % *ad val.** 15 % „ ‡	13 % *ad val.*
		Per 100 *kilogs.*	*Per* 100 *kilogs.*
Ex 39	Copper wire	10 00	10 00
	Copper and nickel, wrought	10 % *ad val.*	10 % *ad val.*
	Iron, hammered or hot-rolled in bars, and steel in bars, without regard to form or mode of manufacture (with the exception of rails), provided they have not been subjected to any further process of manufacture than hammering or hot-rolling by any process; including shafting simply rough-shaped by the steam hammer but unpolished, and unpolished bars impressed with patterns by hot-rolling; as also plates or sheets pierced or not with holes for bolts, screws, or rivets	*Per* 100 *kilogs.* 1 00	*Per* 100 *kilogs.* 1 00
	Band iron and band steel, for hoops of casks	1 00	1 00
	Girders, simply rolled, even pierced with holes, but not curved	1 00	1 00
	Wheel tyres, rough from the forge, *i.e.*, simply hammered or hot-rolled, including those produced by circular rolling	1 00	1 00

* Articles specially mentioned in the Customs Tariff.
† Words in square brackets added by Treaty with Germany.
‡ Other articles.

(*To be continued.*)

NICARAGUA.

Surtax on Import and Export Duties at Bluefields.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a translation of a Decree of the President of Nicaragua suppressing the Custom-house of re-examination (*bodega de revision*) at Bluefields, and imposing a surtax of 5 per cent. on the import and export duties levied at that port, in lieu of the duties formerly payable on the re-examination of goods thereat.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

NICARAGUA—*continued.*

The Board are also in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a translation of a further Nicaraguan Decree suspending the import duties on maize, beans, and rice until the end of the current year, except as regards imports through ports on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua.

Temporary Suspension of Import Duties on Maize, Beans and Rice.

COLOMBIA.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a translation of a Colombian Presidential Decree, dated the 19th June, 1905, laying down regulations for the conversion of the existing currency* and appropriating certain revenues to that purpose.

Government Monopoly of Hides.

Among other provisions the Decree establishes a Government monopoly of hides (†); that is to say, all hides of beasts slaughtered in the country become the property of the Government, by and for whom all such hides are exported. This monopoly takes the place of all national or departmental slaughter taxes previously levied.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a translation of a Decree of the President of Colombia, exempting invoices covering only gold coin of a fineness of not less than ·900 from the payment of Consular fees. The obligation, however, to furnish the usual invoice and certificate of the Consul in the case of consignments of such coin is not cancelled.

Free Certification of certain Consular Invoices.

PARAGUAY.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a translation of a Paraguayan Law, dated 14th July, 1905, authorising the Government to levy the following special duties, the revenues from which are to be appropriated to certain port works specified in the Law:—

Special Wharf Duty.—Special Tax on Timber loaded at Asuncion.

(*a*) A wharf duty of 1 cent (gold) per 10 kilogs. on all articles loaded or unloaded at any port, whether or not use be made of the wharf; and

(*b*) A tax of 46 cents (gold) per cubic metre on timber loaded in the port of Asuncion.

The special wharf duty (*a*) was to be levied from the date of the promulgation of this Law; and the tax on timber (*b*) is to be collected as soon as the wharves which are to be constructed for loading timber are open for public use. Both the taxes will remain in force until the loan to be raised in connection with the authorised port works is paid off.

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* *See* the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 31st August, p. 425.
† " " " " 18th May, p. 312.

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

FRENCH WEST AFRICA.

Progress of Railway Construction.

According to the "Quinzaine Coloniale" (Paris) everything points to the completion of the Abidjan to Ery-Makougnié (80 kil.) section of the Ivory Coast railway by about next January. The permanent way is already laid up to 30 kilom. and the sleepers up to 45 kilom.

The branch from Ouidah on the Dahomey railway is being actively pushed forward and the way is expected to be laid as far as Lake Ahémé this September.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Notice as to Charter Parties for Salonica.

H.M. Consul-General at Salonica (Mr. R. W. Graves, C.M.G.), in a recent despatch, calls atttention to the fact that practically all the business of the port is in the hands of Jewish shippers, agents, stevedores, lightermen, &c., and consequently little or no work can be done in loading or unloading merchandise from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday, or on the Jewish festivals, a fact which should be borne in mind when charter-parties are signed for Salonica.

PERSIA.

British Trade Routes to Khorassan.

The report for the year 1904-5 on the trade of Khorassan, written by H.M. Consul-General at Meshed (Major P. M. Sykes, C.M.G.), contains, at pp. 10-14, some interesting details with regard to the various British trade routes to that province, together with a statement showing the distance to Meshed by each route, the cost of carriage, length of journey, nature of transport, and the value of the trade. The report may be obtained at a cost of 2½*d.*, exclusive of postage, from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

HAYTI.

Port Dues.

A despatch has been received at the Board of Trade, from the Acting British Consul-General at Port-au-Prince (Mr. L. J. Jerome), enclosing a copy of "Le Moniteur," of 9th August, in which is contained a copy of a contract entered into by the Haytian Government and certain individuals for the erection of lighthouses at various ports of the Republic, named below.

The Bill approving the contract fixes the lighthouse dues for the ports of Jacmel, Les Cayes, Jérémie, Miragoâne, Petit-Goâ-ve, Gonaïves, Saint-Marc, and Port-de-Paix, at 5 centimes gold (American) per ton of gross register.

Shipping and Transport.

No dues are leviable at the ports of Môle St. Nicolas and Cape Tiburon, where lighthouses are also to be erected, as these ports are not open to foreign commerce.

Foreign vessels entering the ports of Port-au-Prince and Cape Haytien will benefit by the new tariff from the date of the promulgation of the present law, that is to say, they will pay 5 centimes gold (American) per ton gross register only, instead of 6 centimes gold, as heretofore.

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

BRITISH INDIA—BENGAL.

Revised Rules as to Storage and Transport of Petrol for use in Motor Vehicles.

With reference to the notice published on p. 460 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 8th December, 1904, the Board of Trade have received, through the India Office, a copy of a notification issued by the Government of Bengal on the 27th June last, containing revised rules for regulating the grant, to owners of motor vehicles, of licences to possess and transport petrol for use in such vehicles in that Province.

These rules may be consulted at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.).

GERMANY.

New Shipbuilding Yard at Hamburg to be a free Customs District.

H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg (Sir W. Ward, C.V.O.), in a recent despatch, refers to the decision of the Vulcan Shipbuilding Company, of Stettin, to establish an extensive branch building yard at Hamburg, and remarks that the site acquired by the Company for this purpose is on the left bank of the River Elbe just below Hamburg, and covers about 57 acres. This ground has been leased to the Stettin Company by the State of Hamburg for a term of 50 years; and the Hamburg authorities have undertaken to obtain from the German Government that the area occupied by the new Vulcan building yard shall be granted the privileges of a free district in so far as Customs are concerned, whilst it will be subject to the same laws and regulations in this respect as the other parts of the Hamburg free port district.

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

Mineral Resources.

According to the "Quinzaine Coloniale," the Thaï-Nguyen province of Indo-China is very rich in minerals, which have not yet been exploited owing to lack of proper means of communication. At Cu-Van (12 kil. from Thaï-Nguyen) works were started in July last in connection with the coal and iron deposits there, and their success augurs well for the future of the industry. The forthcoming construction of the railway between Dong-khê and Thaï-Nguyen, which will probably be extended as far as Cu-van, will assure an outlet for the products of the latter province.

FRANCE—NEW CALEDONIA.

Ore Exports.

The "Quinzaine Coloniale" gives the following figures of the export of ores from New Caledonia during the first six months of this year. In order to afford a comparison, the figures for the year 1904 are added :—

	1904.	1905 (Six Months).
	Kilogs.	Kilogs.
Nickel ore	98,655,104	65,172,164
Cobalt ore	8,964,183	5,283,222
Chrome ore	42,197,477	26,942,109

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Coal Production in 1904.

According to the "Bulletin of the American Iron and Steel Association" the production of all kinds of coal in the United States in the calendar year 1904 amounted to 314,562,881 tons, against 319,068,229 tons in 1903, a decrease of 4,505,348 tons. Of the total production of last year 65,318,490 tons were Pennsylvania anthracite and 249,244,391 tons were bituminous. In 1903 the production of Pennsylvania anthracite amounted to 66,613,454 tons and of bituminous coal to 252,454,775 tons. This was a decrease in 1904 as compared with 1903 of 1,294,964 tons of Pennsylvania anthracite and of 3,210,384 tons of bituminous.

The value of the anthracite produced decreased from 152,036,448 dols. in 1903 to 138,974,020 dols. in 1904, a loss of 13,062,428 dols., or 8·6 per cent., while the value of the bituminous produced declined from 351,687,933 dols. in 1903 to 305,842,268 dols. in 1904, a decrease of 45,845,665 dols., or 13·04 per cent. The average prices per ton for the marketed sizes of anthracite coal in

NOTE.—The ton referred to is the ton of 2,240 lbs.

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—*continued.*

1904 was 2.35 dols., as compared with 2.50 dols. in 1903, 2.35 dols. in 1902, and 2.05 dols. in 1901. The average price per net ton of the bituminous coal produced in 1904 was 1.10 dol. compared with 1.24 dol. in 1903, 1.12 dol. in 1902, and 1.05 dol. in 1901.

There were 31 States and Territories in the United States in which coal was produced in 1904, an increase of one over 1903. A small amount of coal produced in Nevada last year adds that State to the list of producers.

Coke Production in 1904.

The "Bulletin" further reports that, including the production of coke from by-product ovens, which in 1904 amounted to 2,608,229 net tons, the total production of coke in the United States last year was 23,621,520 net tons, against 25,274,281 net tons in 1903. The decrease in 1904 as compared with the preceding year was 1,652,761 net tons, or 6·54 per cent. The total value of the coke declined in much greater proportion, viz., from 66,498,664 dols. in 1903 to 46,026,183 dols. in 1904, a decrease of 20,472,481 dols., or 31 per cent. The average price for all the coke made and sold in 1904 was only 9 cents less than that in 1901, and was higher than that of any year from 1893 to 1899 inclusive. In 1903 the value of the coal used in the manufacture of coke was 42,447,449 dols., while in 1904 it was 37,133,832 dols. Of the total production of coke in 1904 Pennsylvania produced over 62 per cent., or 14,861,064 net tons out of a total of 23,621,520 tons.

NOTE.—Net ton = 2,000 lbs.

JAPAN.

Regulations for Enforcing the New Mining Law.

Adverting to the notice published in the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 18th February, 1904, the "Japan Weekly Mail" of 19th August publishes a translation of Order No. 17, issued by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, containing detailed regulations for the enforcement of the new mining law. Both the regulations and the law came into force on the 1st July last.

The translations of these may be consulted at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., any day between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 16th September, 1905, were as follows:—

Wheat	26*s.* 11*d.*
Barley	23*s.* 7*d.*
Oats	16*s.* 0*d.*

For further particulars see p. 569.

Imports of Agricultural Produce.

A statement is published on p. 570, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 16th September, 1905, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1904.

GERMANY.

Sugar Production.

The "Reichsanzeiger" for 13th September publishes statistics of the production of sugar in Germany during the campaign 1904-5 (from September 1st, 1904, to August 31st, 1905). In 1904-5 the quantity of raw beet used in sugar manufacture was 10,080,538 metric tons as compared with 12,677,099 metric tons during the 1903-4 campaign; the amount of raw sugar produced in 1904-5 was 1,362,732 metric tons against 1,665,352 metric tons in 1903-4, whilst the production of refined sugar amounted to 1,298,515 metric tons in 1904-5 as compared with 1,410,553 metric tons in 1903-4. The total output of sugar (raw and refined) during the period from September, 1904, to August, 1905, expressed in terms of raw sugar, was 1,615,189 metric tons as compared with 1,929,415 metric tons in the corresponding months of 1903-4.

ITALY.

Cotton Cultivation.

With reference to the article on pp. 564-5 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 23rd March last, H.M. Consul-General at Naples (Mr. E. Neville Rolfe, M.V.O.), reports that a project is on foot, and seems likely soon to take definite shape, for the extension of the cultivation of cotton in Italy on a large scale. The few thousand bales now grown scarcely affect the demand from America, to which country Italy pays 160,000,000 fr. annually (6,400,000*l.*) for the raw material to supply her numerous and rapidly-increasing cotton mills.

At the present moment there are not more than 4,000 hectares (10,000 acres) under cotton, of which the greater part is in the Naples district and in Sicily; but it is an undoubted fact, says Mr. Rolfe, that large tracts in South Italy, as well as in Sicily and the Island of Sardinia, could produce cotton plentifully and of good quality.

Agriculture.

In Italy, he continues, cotton is sown in April and gathered in October, and as all corn is cut there by the beginning of July, the land which is to be under cotton in the following April can quite well grow an intervening crop, and thus add considerably to the profits of the farmer. The project has the support of many influential people, and it seems likely that more will be heard of it. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,496.)

PERSIA.

Cotton in Khorassan.

H.M. Consul-General at Meshed (Major P. M. Sykes, C.M.G.), in his recent report, says that owing to the altitude at which cotton is grown in Persia, the summers are too short to allow of the production of a long-stapled article, and consequently but little is exported to Bombay, even from Southern Persia.

The export of cotton from Khorassan to Russia has decreased from 196,081*l.* in 1903-04 to 119,802*l.* in 1904-05, mainly owing to the war, which has produced a lack of confidence and a general shrinkage of operations. The preferential treatment, adds Major Sykes, acts as a great stimulus to its production, and it is instructive to note that the duty is refunded to the buyer for export to Persia of an equal quantity of manufactured goods. In this connection the articles woven from the inferior Persian cotton are sold only in Transcaspia and Persia, and as good cotton is much dearer (apart from the much higher duty charged) it seems probable that unless Transcaspian cotton replaces it, Khorassan cotton may continue to be a profitable crop, as it is sold in a carefully guarded market. Transcaspian cotton commands a slightly higher price, mainly owing to the fact that the carding is done by machinery and that, as a consequence, few or no seeds are allowed to remain. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,499.)

NICARAGUA.

Scarcity of Cereals.

Referring to the notice on p. 536 of this issue, H. M. Consul at Greytown (Mr. H. F. Bingham) remarks, in the course of a memorandum on the scarcity of cereals in Nicaragua, that this is due partly to an unusually dry season and partly to the fact that the comparatively high wages paid during last year for labour in cotton planting (the crop of which was an almost entire failure) attracted persons who usually plant corn and beans. In Nicaragua the present price of Indian corn is 3·28 dols. (United States gold) per 100 lbs., as against 1·80 dols. per 100 lbs. last year, and of native rice 5·50 dols. per 100 lbs., as against an average of 3·33 dols. per 100 lbs. last year.

The same scarcity that exists in Nicaragua, and for virtually the same reasons, also exists in the other Central American States,

Agriculture.

which cannot therefore supply the deficiency in these articles of food. Mr. Bingham gives the cost price of these articles in the United States as follows:—Indian corn, per 100 lbs., 1·07 dols.; rice, per 100 lbs., 3·00 dols. Adding to the price of these articles in the United States, the expenses of bringing them to Nicaragua, and the total brings the cost laid down there up to the prices named above.

Rice being always a small crop in Nicaragua, and chiefly supplied by importation, Mr. Bingham considers that the prices of rice by the present Decree will probably be decreased by the amount of the import duty only, viz., 1 dol. gold per 100 lbs.

It would appear that there might be a margin of profit in introducing Indian corn into Nicaragua, but this is doubtful; kiln-dried corn is not wanted there.

BRAZIL.

Rubber Exports.

According to the "Brazilian Review" of 29th August, exports of all kinds of rubber from Brazil during 1904 amounted to 30,644 tons. This quantity is slightly smaller than the previous year, a good deal of rubber having been delayed up country until January or February of this year. Of the total exported, 14,335 tons, or 45 per cent., went to Europe, and 16,309 tons, or 55 per cent., to the United States of America.

JAPAN.

Tea Trade: Petition for Subsidy.

According to the "Japan Weekly Mail," the officials of the Central Chamber of the Tea Traders Guild, representing the tea dealers of the whole of Japan, have petitioned the Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce to renew the grant in aid voted for them by the Diet several years ago. The grant was for the avowed purpose of extending the routes of the trade. Its period terminated in 1903, and the guild having applied for an extension, the Government made a special appropriation of 350,000 yen in 1904. A petition was then presented to the Diet and readily submitted by the latter for the Government's approval, but in consequence of the war no grant was made in 1905. The petition now addressed to the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce says that the opening of new markets has been stopped, and that enterprises already in progress have had to be suspended, so that the record of the trade for the current year is unfortunate. It is pointed out that everything tending to increase the national capital should now be promoted, and that any diminution in the export of principal staples is much to be regretted in national interests. The memorialists ask for a grant of 70,000 yen annually for seven years, commencing with 1906.

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

State of the Labour Market in August, 1905.

A report published in the "Board of Trade Labour Gazette" * of the 16th September, based on 4,838 returns, viz.: 3,480 from employers, or their associations, 1,271 from trade unions, and 87 from other sources, states that as is usual at this time of the year, employment in August showed a slight falling off as compared with July. The cotton trade continued to be very busy, and in the pig iron and iron and steel manufacturing industries a further improvement was reported.

Compared with a year ago employment has improved. A marked improvement is shown in the pig iron, iron and steel, and tinplate industries, as well as in the cotton, woollen, worsted and hosiery trades. Certain other trades have also improved; on the other hand, coal mining was at about the same level as in August, 1904, and the building trades showed some decline.

In the 270 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 578,444, making returns, 31,046 (or 5·4 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 5·2 per cent. at the end of July, and 6·4 per cent. at the end of August, 1904.

* For list of principal contents of the "Board of Trade Labour Gazette," see p. 573.

Fishery Statistics, August, 1905.

The following statement shows the quantity and value of fish landed on the English and Welsh, Scotch, and Irish Coasts during the month and eight months ended 31st August, 1905, compared with the corresponding periods of the year 1904:—

—	Month of August.				Eight Months ended 31st August.			
	1905.		*1904.*		1905.		*1904.*	
	Quantity.	Value.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	Quantity.	Value.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
England and Wales—	Cwts.	£	*Cwts.*	£	Cwts.	£	*Cwts.*	£
Fish, excluding shell fish	884,065	561,363	*877,518*	*479,103*	6,101,685	4,224,415	*5,649,575*	*3,794,119*
Shell fish	—	22,543	—	*25,247*	—	203,692	—	*198,481*
Total Value ...	—	583,906	—	*504,350*	—	4,428,107	—	*3,992,600*
Scotland—								
Fish, excluding shell fish	2,348,374	630,121	*2,358,373*	*439,336*	6,522,461	2,072,979	*6,776,483*	*1,787,273*
Shell fish	—	6,116	—	*6,786*	—	47,370	—	*51,484*
Total Value ...	—	636,237	—	*446,122*	—	2,120,349	—	*1,838,757*
Ireland—								
Fish, excluding shell fish	42,821	18,285	*46,622*	*19,171*	448,004	176,010	*564,930*	*198,149*
Shell fish	—	2,266	—	*2,685*	—	11,210	—	*8,892*
Total Value ...	—	20,551	—	*21,856*	—	187,220	—	*207,041*

NOTE.—All the above figures are subject to correction in the annual returns.

Miscellaneous.

UNITED KINGDOM—*continued.*

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 14th September, 1905, was 37,481 (including 33 bales British West Indian and 304 bales British West African), and the number imported during the 37 weeks ended the 14th September was 2,793,422 (including 3,879 bales British West Indian and 3,037 bales British West African). As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 14th September, 1905, 5,748 bales, and for the 37 weeks, 291,969.

For further details see p. 569.

Bankruptcy Statistics.

The total number of receiving orders gazetted in England and Wales during the month of August last was 375, as compared with 371 during August, 1904.

For detailed particulars see pp. 571-2.

CANADA—BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Commercial Travellers' Licenses.

The Board of Trade have received copy of an Act of the Province of British Columbia, passed on 8th April, 1905, enacting that no commercial traveller, agent, or other person not being a resident of British Columbia shall take or solicit orders either for themselves or any other person for any goods, wares, merchandise, or other effects to be imported into British Columbia as the result of such orders unless he shall have taken out a license. This license costs, in the case of all persons taking or soliciting orders for liquors, cigars, or both, 100 dols. for every six months, and in the case of persons taking or soliciting orders for any other classes of goods 50 dols. for every six months. Unlicensed persons taking orders are liable to a penalty not exceeding 100 dols. in addition to the amount of license fee payable. Licenses issued under the Act do not empower the holder to carry a stock of goods for sale in British Columbia.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Customs Statistical Bureau.

The Board of Trade have been notified that the various Colonies comprising the South African Customs Union have established the South African Customs Statistical Bureau, with headquarters in Cape Town, as from the 1st July last. The import and export returns and other statistical information pertaining to Customs will be prepared and published from this office.

Miscellaneous.

RUSSIA.

Free Entry of Goods into Siberia.

Referring to the notice on p. 303 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of the 17th August, and to that on p. 182 of the "Journal" of the 27th July, a despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador at St. Petersburg (Sir Charles Hardinge, G.C.M.G.), stating that the privilege of importing goods into Siberia, duty free, has been granted to certain Russian and foreign firms for the present year only, and no distinction has been made in the nationality of those allowed to apply for such permission.

Any British subject or firm desirous of importing goods into Siberia must address a petition to the Ministry of Finance, together with a detailed list of the goods it is proposed to import. The Ministry, however, reserve to themselves the right of deciding the nature and quantity of goods to which free admission will be granted.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Increased prices of Boots and Shoes.

The Acting British Consul at Trieste (Mr. N. Salvari) reports that in consequence of the increase in price of raw material, the prices of all boots and shoes have been raised by 10 per cent.

SAGHALIEN.

Fishing Industry.

In a recent report by the Canadian Commercial Agent at Yokohama (Mr. A. MacLean), he states that the Japanese are discussing the industrial prospects of Saghalien. The island is described as being full of mineral and forest wealth, but inasmuch as it will require time to develop these resources, the attention of the Japanese is for the present centred on the fisheries. The principal fish caught are salmon and herring, while the gathering of edible seaweed also forms quite a lucrative industry. The Japanese Government are now considering the ways of developing the fisheries.

Under Russian administration the whole littoral was divided into more than 200 fishing grounds, which were leased for payment of a certain sum or royalty. The leases, except those for a long term, were renewed every year. The Japanese authorities, it is believed, will, on the whole, adopt the system in vogue under the Russian management. Some of the fishing grounds were sublet to Japanese fishermen by the Russian lessees, and the Japanese derived satisfactory profits from the employment. Should, therefore, Saghalien come under Japanese administration, it is expected that they will make the most of the industry and the revenue-producing capabilities of the island.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported** at the **Various Ports** of the **United Kingdom** during the Week and 37 Weeks ended 14th September, 1905 :—

	Week ended 14th Sept., 1905.	37 Weeks ended 14th Sept., 1905.	Week ended 14th Sept., 1905.	37 Weeks ended 14th Sept., 1905.
	Imports. (Bales.)		Exports. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	14,680	2,313,402	3,994	199,674
Brazilian	7,617	53,333	—	549
East Indian	4,787	46,821	1,654	13,983
Egyptian	6,365	320,109	60	72,567
Miscellaneous	4,032*	59,757†	40	5,196
Total	37,481	2,793,422	5,748	291,969

* Including 33 bales British West Indian, and 304 bales British West African.
† Including 3,879 bales British West Indian and 3,037 bales British West African.

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the **Average Price** of **British Corn,** per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 16th September, 1905, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Week ended 16th September, 1905	26	11	23	7	16	0
Corresponding week in—						
1898	25	5	26	9	17	1
1899	25	4	27	4	16	1
1900	28	4	26	0	17	1
1901	26	0	25	5	17	4
1902	27	1	26	4	18	4
1903	27	5	24	2	16	4
1904	29	7	24	9	15	11

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of **Agricultural Produce** imported into the **United Kingdom** in the week ended 16th September, 1905, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 16th Sept., 1905.	*Corresponding Week in 1904.*
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	13,190	*12,977*
Sheep and lambs	"	2,606	*6,946*
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	113	*256*
Fresh Meat :—			
Beef	Cwts.	96,242	*89,600*
Mutton	"	83,722	*119,607*
Pork	"	8,170	*12,677*
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	97,369	*108,386*
Beef	"	2,907	*1,374*
Hams	"	20,746	*25,801*
Pork	"	5,448	*5,893*
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh	"	10,035	*9,782*
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting	"	26,014	*12,584*
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	69,375	*73,764*
Margarine	"	16,694	*24,055*
Cheese	"	52,945	*76,324*
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	—	—
" cream	"	62	*60*
" condensed	"	20,765	*17,153*
" preserved, other kinds	"	106	*90*
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	448,653	*443,632*
Poultry	Value £	4,514	*3,648*
Game	"	1,902	*1,706*
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	22,511	*37,129*
Lard	"	33,852	*36,941*
Corn, grain, meal, and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	2,354,000	*2,854,900*
Wheat meal and flour	"	337,500	*171,100*
Barley	"	690,600	*590,400*
Oats	"	290,800	*233,900*
Peas	"	55,930	*75,800*
Beans	"	19,450	*73,910*
Maize or Indian corn	"	1,538,400	*813,800*
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	27,945	*45,048*
Apricots and peaches	"	521	*76*
Bananas	Bunches.	136,532	*110,278*
Cherries	Cwts.	—	—
Currants	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	—	—
Grapes	"	37,497	*54,650*
Lemons	"	3,335	*18,449*
Oranges	"	3,149	*5,171*
Pears	"	24,565	*27,965*
Plums	"	21,219	*10,557*
Strawberries	"	—	—
Unenumerated	"	34,050	*24,869*
Hay	Tons.	1,850	*3,794*
Straw	"	2,333	*2,637*
Moss Litter. (Not shown in 1904)	"	2,190	—
Hops	Cwts.	811	*4,552*
Locust Beans	"	3,360	*30*
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	310,168	*201,260*
Potatoes	Cwts.	27,293	*69,407*
Tomatoes	"	19,113	*22,840*
Unenumerated	Value £	2,349	*3,051*
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	3,986	*18,273*
Preserved by canning	"	7,098	*9,817*

Bankruptcy.—England and Wales.

Number of Receiving Orders Gazetted in the under-mentioned Principal Trades and Occupations during the periods indicated.

	August.		Eight Months ended August.	
	1905.	*1904.*	1905.	*1904.*
Total gazetted...	No. 375	*No. 371*	No. 3,202	*No. 3,029*
Number gazetted in principal trades and occupations :—				
Grocers, &c....	26	*21*	219	*196*
Publicans and hotel keepers, &c.	18	*14*	196	*163*
Builders	24	*23*	191	*217*
Farmers	9	*16*	146	*116*
Bakers	13	*13*	105	*95*
Greengrocers, fruiterers, &c.	15	*11*	94	*80*
Butchers	14	*18*	92	*90*
Boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers ...	10	*13*	82	*71*
Drapers, haberdashers, &c.	9	*8*	73	*83*
Decorators, painters, plumbers, &c.	5	*8*	72	*57*
Tailors, &c.	9	*9*	60	*61*
Agents, commission and general	5	*1*	58	*28*
Fishmongers, poulterers, &c.	7	*3*	56	*41*
Coal and coke merchants and dealers	1	*4*	51	*40*
Auctioneers	6	*6*	46	*32*
Travellers, commercial	7	*3*	39	*27*
Confectioners	4	*1*	36	*22*
Jewellers, watchmakers, silversmiths, &c. ...	4	*5*	34	*39*
Carpenters and joiners	5	*8*	33	*26*
Tobacconists, &c.	2	*3*	30	*26*
Corn, flour, seed, hay, and straw merchants and dealers	1	*3*	29	*34*
Engineers and founders, &c.	4	*11*	28	*37*
Provision merchants, &c.	5	—	28	*19*
Furniture dealers and makers	2	*4*	27	*36*
Clerks, commercial and general	5	*2*	27	*35*
Carriers, carmen, lightermen, and hauliers ...	1	*5*	26	*32*
Hairdressers...	1	*2*	26	*16*
Bicycle, &c., manufacturers and dealers ..	9	*5*	26	*26*

Bankruptcy.—England and Wales—*continued.*

	August.		Eight Months ended August.	
	1905.	*1904.*	1905.	*1904.*
Number gazetted in principal trades and occupations—*continued:*	**No.**	***No.***	**No.**	***No.***
Restaurant, coffee and eating-house keepers ...	2	*2*	24	*21*
Ironmongers	3	*5*	24	*21*
Milliners, dressmakers, &c.	4	*1*	23	*19*
General dealers	—	*2*	22	*35*
Clothiers, outfitters, &c.	1	*1*	22	*19*
Directors and promoters of public companies ...	4	*3*	22	*22*
Carriage, &c., builders	2	*2*	21	*20*
Cab, omnibus and fly proprietors	3	*2*	21	*16*
Cabinet makers and upholsterers	3	*3*	21	*20*
Printers, booksellers, and publishers	3	*3*	20	*30*
Dairymen, cowkeepers, &c.	4	*4*	20	*18*
Doctors of medicine, physicians, &c.	—	*1*	19	*13*
Wheelwrights	3	—	19	*12*
Stationers	1	*4*	17	*9*
Chemists, druggists and chemical manufacturers	1	*2*	17	*14*
Schoolmasters and schoolmistresses	2	*2*	17	*14*
Solicitors	1	*3*	16	*26*
Gardeners, florists, &c.	1	*1*	15	*22*
Lodging-house keepers	1	*3*	15	*14*
Saddlers and harness makers	—	*4*	14	*24*
Architects and surveyors	2	*3*	14	*18*
Timber merchants	—	*1*	13	*12*
China, glass, and earthenware, &c., dealers ...	—	—	13	*15*
Contractors	1	*2*	13	*20*
Woollen merchants and manufacturers... ..	2	*1*	13	*9*
Merchants, general	2	*1*	12	*18*
Officers in Army	—	*2*	10	*14*
Hosiers, glovers, &c.	3	—	10	*11*
Cattle and pig dealers	1	—	9	*14*
Stone, marble and monumental masons, &c. ...	1	*1*	9	*12*
Curriers, tanners, and leather merchants ...	2	—	9	*9*
Brokers, stock and share	—	*2*	7	*11*
Blacksmiths, farriers, &c.	1	*2*	7	*21*
Wine and spirit merchants, &c.	—	*1*	5	*11*
Millers	—	*2*	4	*16*
Fishing smack owners, and masters	—	*1*	4	*4*
Cotton spinners and manufacturers	—	—	1	*3*

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of August, 1905, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a cost, in the present instance of 1*s.* per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1904, in two volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 7*s.* 7*d.* for the first, and 4*s.* 3*d.* for the second volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1900–1904, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country) in the first volume, and in the second volume details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transhipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

The "Board of Trade Labour Gazette" is published by the Board of Trade about the 16th of each month. The following are among the more important articles which appear in the September issue:—State of the Labour Market in August; Cotton Spinning Trade; Labour Disputes and Conciliation, and Arbitration in France in 1904; Trades Union Congress; Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in 1904; Proceedings under the Conciliation Act, 1903-5; Directory of Industrial Associations; and Profit Sharing in 1904-5.

FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

The following is a *résumé* of some of the more interesting subjects dealt with in a Consular Report of the Annual Series issued since the last number of the "Board of Trade Journal."

ANNUAL.

No. 3,499. Trade of Khorassan, 1904-05.

Large share of Russia in the increase in trade.

Condition of cotton and silk industry. Prosperity of the wool trade.

Notes on local manufactures: carpets, shawls, &c.

Reduction in camel hire. Reports on various trade routes, with table of rates, &c., to Meshed.

Openings for trade and hints to British merchants.

Government Publications.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Imperial Institute. Indian Section. Annual Report for the Year 1904-05. [*Cd.* 2,724.] *Price* 2½*d.*

This report deals with the work of the Indian Section of the Imperial Institute during the year ended 31st March last. To the statement of the Indian Committee of the Imperial Institute is appended a report by Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., on the Indian work of the Imperial Institute, together with a detailed account by Mr. C. E. Jones, Superintendent of the Indian Section, on the work of the section during the year. Particulars are also given of the progress of the Indian Trade Enquiry Office (at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.), under Mr. B. J. Rose.

Railway Accidents. Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ending 31st March, 1905. [*Cd.* 2,721.] *Price* 1*s.* 9*d.*

These returns show that during the three months ending 31st March, 1905, 252 persons were killed and 1,596 injured on railways in the United Kingdom in the course of public traffic, the figures for the corresponding period of 1904 being 275 and 1,665 respectively.

Fifteen persons were killed and 2,971 injured during the three months ending 31st March, 1905, as compared with 15 killed and 3,047 injured during the corresponding period of 1904, in accidents which occurred upon railway premises but in which the movement of vehicles used exclusively upon railways was not concerned.

Reports by the inspecting officers, &c., of the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were enquired into are appended to the returns.

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade (No. 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.) is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference, and at which, so far as the interests of British trade permit, replies shall be given to enquiries by traders on commercial matters.

On application being made to it either personally or by letter, the Branch supplies, so far as is possible, information with regard to the following subjects, viz.: Commercial Statistics; Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs and Customs Regulations; Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities; Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender; Sources of Supply, Prices, &c., of Trade Products; Forms of Certificates of Origin; Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers, &c., &c. There is a Sample Room at the offices of the Branch, where, in addition to samples illustrative of reports of H.M. Consuls or of the Correspondents or Special Commissioners of the Board of Trade, specimens of special interest that may be received from the Imperial Institute, India, or the Colonies, &c., are exhibited from time to time.

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, and intended for general information, is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is now issued weekly at the price of 1*d*. All applications respecting subscription, or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London to Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street. Copies may also be obtained from Messrs. G. Street & Co., Ltd., 30, Cornhill, E.C.

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.—In consequence of the transfer of the Imperial Institute to the Board of Trade from the beginning of 1903, the work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Office of the Imperial Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

Among the branches of work now carried on by the Imperial Institute at South Kensington are the scientific investigation of the economic products of the British Empire with a view to their commercial utilisation, and the superintendence of the arrangement and classification of the Collection of these products which is exhibited at the Institute. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room at 73, Basinghall Street.

The "Imperial Institute Bulletin," issued quarterly, contains information and reports bearing on the work carried out in the Imperial Institute at South Kensington.

March, 1905.

SPECIAL INDIAN AND COLONIAL TRADE ENQUIRY OFFICES.

India.—The India Trade Enquiry Office at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., has been established for the purpose of supplying the general public with all available information as to the commercial products, manufactures and trades of British India.

The office is under the superintendence of an India Office official, who is in daily attendance to answer personal or written enquiries.

The current publications of the Government of India dealing with Indian Trade statistics, tariff charges, railways, economic products, &c., are kept in the office, and can be consulted free: the various Indian Directories are also filed.

Canada.—The Canadian Government have secured premises at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where an office has been opened under the designation of "Canadian Government Trade Enquiry Branch," for the convenience of the commercial community.

In due course it is intended to equip and maintain a display room, illustrating the products, resources and manufactures of the Dominion. In the meantime, a Canadian representative attends daily to deal with enquiries and applications in connection with Canadian import and export trade, and to supply information about Canadian matters generally. Personal appointments can be arranged when desired.

Cape of Good Hope.—The Government of the Cape of Good Hope have opened offices at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., for the purpose of a Commercial Agency for that Colony, which will be under the direction of the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope.

Mr. Lewis Atkinson, who has been appointed Commercial Agent, attends daily to deal with enquiries on all Commercial and Trade matters connected with Cape Colony.

Queensland.—For the convenience of the commercial community in the City of London, the Agent-General for Queensland has opened a branch office at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where a representative attends daily to give information to enquirers regarding trade, mining, and all other matters in connection with Queensland.

A Reading Room will also be provided in which maps, directories, statutes, Government reports, and other publications of the State can be seen.

March, 1905.